

FACT SHEET



Missouri Electric Works Superfund Site Cape Girardeau, Missouri

November 1998

Consent Decree Approved

One hundred seventy-five (175) potentially responsible parties (PRPs) of the Missouri Electric Works (MEW) Superfund Site agreed in 1991 to perform the remedial action identified in the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 1990 Record of Decision (ROD). These parties, along with EPA and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), became parties to a judicial consent decree. A consent decree is a legal document, approved by a federal judge, that formalizes an agreement reached among EPA, MDNR, and PRPs where PRPs will perform all or part of a Superfund site cleanup. After two appeals, the consent decree for soil remediation was finally approved by a federal judge in March 1998.

Williams Named Remedial Contractor

The Missouri Electric Works Site Trust Donors (MEWSTD), a group of PRPs, took bids for a remedial contractor in April 1998. MEWSTD evaluated the proposals and recommended the selection of Williams Environmental Services, Inc. (Williams) to clean up contaminated soil. EPA and MDNR approved Williams as

the remedial contractor for the soil. Williams will use its Thermal Treatment Unit (TTU) to reduce PCB contamination in excavated site soils. EPA and MDNR have approved the use of a TTU at the site. Thermal desorption will be used to remove the PCBs from the soil; it uses indirect heat to evaporate organic contaminants such as PCBs.

Results of Soil Tests

The results of the PCB-contaminated soil tests for the MEW site successfully attained the performance criteria of 2 ppm.. The first test, performed during 1995, excavated and treated limited amounts of contaminated site soil. Several treatment attempts were needed to reach the required performance criteria of 2 ppm PCB. The second test, performed during 1997, treated the soil without excavation. These tests, conducted at MEW, were performed by a group of PRPs to determine the ability of new, creative methods of tackling PCB-contaminated soils.

Next Steps

Remedial design is the next step; remedial design is the phase when technical specifications are developed for the cleanup remedy. MEWSTD will perform the remedial design and remedial action. EPA will continue to oversee all remedial design and remedial action activities. PCB-contaminated groundwater was discovered on the site as a result of additional work performed by the PRPs, following issuance of the ROD. Additional groundwater investigation will be conducted as part of the work to be performed under the consent decree.

Background

The site is located at 824 South Kingshighway in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. MEW sold, serviced, and reconditioned electric motors, transformers, and transformer controls from 1954 through 1992 at the site. EPA discovered polychlorinated biphenyl-contaminated (PCB) soils in November 1984. Additional investigations were performed from 1984 through 1990. Remedial investigations were performed by a group of PRPs. These investigations revealed the extent and magnitude of PCB-contamination at the site. The maximum PCB-concentration was 58,000 parts per million (ppm). The site was listed on the National Priorities List in February 1990. This is EPA's list of the most serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites identified as possible long term cleanup under the Superfund program.

Access to More Site Information

The Administrative Record, a file containing all site information, is available for public review during normal business hours at Cape Girardeau Public Library, 711 N. Clark

Street, Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

Questions or Concerns

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